



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,121	10/05/2005	Tamas Hume	1376-053035	4077
28289 7590 03/18/2009 THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C. 700 KOPPERS BUILDING 436 SEVENTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15219				
EXAMINER YAN, REN LUO				
ART UNIT 2854		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 03/18/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/552,121

**Applicant(s)**

HUME ET AL.

**Examiner**

Ren L. Yan

**Art Unit**

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12-29-2008 has been entered.

Claim 21 is objected to because it is identical to claim 14 and thus constitutes a double recitation.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-16, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hutchinson et al(5,167,739) in view of Haller(6,386,771) and Wen et al(7,236,258).

With respect to claim 1, Hutchinson et al teach a method for forming a document set as claimed, said document set formed from rectangular sheets of the same size and including an envelope sheet 10, 13 and at least one insert sheet 12, the method including the steps of: printing said envelope sheet with envelope information, said envelope information including a unique code identifier 69 to identify the envelope sheet; printing each of said at least one insert sheets with insert information, said insert information including a further unique code identifier 69 to identify each of the at least one insert sheet, and collating said envelope sheet and at least one

insert sheet by reading the unique code identifier of the envelope sheet and the further unique code identifier of the insert sheet to form said document set 78. See Figs. 1-10 and column 5, line 43 through column 6, line 20 in Hutchinson et al for details.

However, Hutchinson et al do not teach to use only one single envelope sheet and the unique code identifier of the single envelope sheet is unique from the code identifier of the insert sheet.

Haller teaches the concept of using envelope sheets 17 and insert sheets 22 the same size and only one envelope sheet 17 is used to be folded into an envelope. See Figs. 14 and 15 and column 11, line 44 through column 12, line 35 in Haller for example.

Wen et al teach a method for producing personalized greeting cards including envelopes 700 and greeting card 300 to be inserted inside the envelope. The envelope 700 is printed with a unique machine readable code identifier 740 and the greeting card 300 is printed with a further unique machine readable code identifier 520, wherein the unique code identifier 740 is unique from the further code identifier 520 and includes information about the matching greeting card so that the scanning of the code identifier 740 and the scanning of the code identifier 520 will confirm the correct matching of the envelope 700 and the corresponding greeting card. See Figs. 5, 7 and the paragraph bridging columns 11 and 12 in Wen et al for example.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the method of Hutchinson et al with the same size sheets for the envelope and the inserts wherein only one single sheet is used to make an envelope as taught by Haller so as to predictably produce the document set with simplified equipment requirement.

It would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the envelope and the insert sheet in the method of Hutchinson, as modified by Haller with the unique code identifier for the envelope that contains information about the insert sheet but is unique to the unique code identifier for the insert sheet as taught by Wen et al as simply an equivalent way to predictably achieve the same envelope and insert matching process via the scanning operation.

Regarding claim 2, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al further teach the step of verifying said document set by performing a self-referencing integrity check on the read unique code identifier of the single envelope sheet and the read further unique code identifier of each of the insert sheets at scanning/verification stage 74 .

Regarding claim 6, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al teach said unique code identifier identifies whether a printed sheet is the single envelope sheet.

Regarding claim 9, Hutchinson et al teach said unique code identifiers are barcodes.

Regarding claim 10, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al teach the steps of printing the single envelope sheet, printing the at least one insert sheet and collating the single envelope sheet and at least one insert sheet are accomplished using a common printer 67.

Regarding claim 11, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al teach wherein said envelope information is printed on one side of said single envelope sheet 10.

Regarding claim 12, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al teach the method for forming a document set as discussed above and further including the step of applying an adhesive layer to at least one side of said single envelope sheet in a predetermined pattern, said pattern arranged to provide adhesive means for an envelope formed from said single

envelope sheet when said envelope from said envelope sheet is re-used.

Regarding claim 15, Hutchinson et al teach an apparatus for forming a document set, said document set formed from rectangular sheets of the same size and including an envelope sheet and at least one insert sheet 10, 12 and 13, said apparatus including: a printer 67 for printing said envelope sheet with envelope information, said envelope information including a unique code identifier 69 to identify the envelope sheet and furthermore for printing each of said at least one insert sheets with insert information, said insert information including a further unique code identifier 69 to identify each of said at least one insert sheet, a scanner for scanning each said unique code identifier and said further unique code identifier; and a collator for collating said envelope sheet and at least one insert sheet to form said document set 78. See Figs. 1-10 and column 5, line 43 through column 6, line 20 in Hutchinson et al for details.

However, Hutchinson et al do not teach to use only one single envelope sheet and the unique code identifier of the single envelope sheet is unique from the code identifier of the insert sheet.

Haller teaches the concept of using envelope sheets 17 and insert sheets 22 the same size and only one envelope sheet 17 is used to be folded into an envelope. See Figs. 14 and 15 and column 11, line 44 through column 12, line 35 in Haller for example.

Wen et al teach an apparatus for producing personalized greeting cards including envelopes 700 and greeting card 300 to be inserted inside the envelope. The envelope 700 is printed with a unique machine readable code identifier 740 and the greeting card 300 is printed with a further unique machine readable code identifier 520, wherein the unique code identifier 740 is unique from the further code identifier 520 and includes information about the matching

greeting card so that the scanning of the code identifier 740 and the scanning of the code identifier 520 will confirm the correct matching of the envelope 700 and the corresponding greeting card. See Figs. 5, 7 and the paragraph bridging columns 11 and 12 in Wen et al for example.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the apparatus of Hutchinson et al with the same size sheets for the envelope and the insert sheets wherein only one single sheet is used to make an envelope as taught by Haller so as to predictably produce the document set with simplified equipment requirement.

It would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the envelope and the insert sheet in the apparatus of Hutchinson, as modified by Haller with the unique code identifier for the envelope that contains information about the insert sheet but is unique to the unique code identifier for the insert sheet as taught by Wen et al as simply an equivalent way to predictably achieve the same envelope and insert matching process via the scanning operation.

Regarding claim 16, Hutchinson et al further teach the use of a data processor to process said scanned unique code identifier and said scanned further unique code identifier of each of the insert sheets and perform a self-referencing integrity check, thereby verifying the document set at 74.

Regarding claims 13 and 20, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al teach the conventional way of separating and folding the insert sheet into a folded sheet set and wrapping and sealing the single envelope sheet about the at least one insert sheet to form an envelope. See Figs. 14 and 15 in Haller.

Regarding claims 14 and 21, the combination of Hutchinson et al and AAPA teach a bulk mail out item resulting from the method as claimed in claims 13 and 20.

Claims 3-5, 7, 8 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hutchinson et al(5,167,739) in view of Haller and Wen et al as applied to claims 1, 2, 12, 15 and 16 above, and further in view of Fig. 1 Applicant's Admitted Prior Art(hereafter AAPA).

With respect to claims 3-5 and 17-19, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al teach all that is claimed but is silent about out sorting any document set using a sorter that fails said integrity check, rescheduling the printing of said document set that failed said integrity check and wherein rescheduling is performed online.

AAPA teaches a method and apparatus for forming a document set using a code scanner to read the code identifier and performing a self-referencing integrity check and the steps of out sorting any document set that fails said integrity check using a sorter, rescheduling the printing of said document set that failed said integrity check and wherein rescheduling is performed online. See Fig. 1 and pages 1 and 2 of the present specification for example.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the method and apparatus of Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al with the capability of out sorting the document set that fails the integrity check and rescheduling the printing of the document set online as taught by AAPA in order to effectively replace the missing document set.

Regarding claim 7, Hutchinson et al, as modified by Haller and Wen et al teach all that is claimed except for the unique code identifier to include the number of at least one insert sheets associated with said envelope sheet to form said document set. AAPA teaches in a paragraph



bridging pages 1 and 2 of the present specification the unique code identifier printed on the sheet that includes a number of sheets to be inserted into envelopes. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the number of sheets to be included in the envelope of the document set in Hutchinson, as modified by Haller and Wen et al in order for the scanner to verify the correct number of sheets to be placed in the envelope in the document set.

With respect to claim 8, since the combination of Hutchinson et al, Haller, Wen et al and AAPA teaches to form a personalized a document set with personalized information pertaining to the individual, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include in the unique code identifier information relating to customer information, content information and distribution information associated with said document set to ensure that the assembled document set will be mailed to the right person.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L. Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ren L Yan/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2854  
March 13, 2009